



HF Happenings

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You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.

The ZS2 Sprint

The ZS2 Sprint is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in the Eastern Cape and radio amateurs in Southern African countries. The Sprint will take place next Sunday 24 July 2016 from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC. It is a phone and CW contest on the 40-metre band with CW between 7 000 to 7 040 kHz and phone between 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and the exchange is a RS or RST report and provincial or country abbreviation.

Scoring for ZS2 stations is 1 point per contact with stations in ZS2 and 2 points per contact with stations in other ZS call areas or Southern African countries. For all other stations it is 2 points per contact with stations in ZS2 and 1 point per contact with stations in own or other ZS call areas (excluding ZS2) or Southern African countries. Contacts with the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, ZS2PE, or the Border Radio Club, ZS2BRC, are worth 5 points each. Only one contact per station is allowed.

Log sheets in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign ZS2 Sprint," must be submitted by 31 July 2016 and sent to zs2ec@vodamail.co.za. Certificates will be awarded to the 1st 2nd and 3rd place. This will only happen if more than five logs are submitted.

ILLW reaches 300 registrations

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend next month has more than 300 registrations so far from 35 countries. The prestigious 300th has been made by the QSY Society, K2QS, for the Esopus Meadows Lighthouse in the Hudson River in New York. Known as the Maid of the Meadows the octagonal wooden tower warns Mariners of the mud flats. Built in 1839 and historically listed the QSY Society K2QS will be activated mainly on 20 metres SSB. The fun-event is held on 20 and 21 August with all registrations and the guidelines on the web-site ILLW.net. To date South Africa has 10 lighthouses registered.

Attendance at Dayton Hamvention® Tops 25,000 for Second Year in a Row

Given the level of enthusiasm at the 2016 running of Dayton Hamvention® in mid-May, attendance may have seemed up, but essentially, it held steady at 25 364 visitors. That figure was down only slightly from the 25 621 attendees reported for 2015, but above the 25 000 mark for the second year in a row. For those keeping track, in 2014 the official count was 24 873 visitors, and attendance in 2013 was 24 542.

Hamvention attendance peaked in 1993 at 33 669, before the 1996 change in date from April to May. While attendance has fluctuated over the years, Hamvention has grown to international proportions, attracting members of the worldwide Amateur Radio community each spring.



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) has sponsored Hamvention since 1952. Originally called the Southwestern Ohio Hamvention, the inaugural event, held in March in downtown Dayton, attracted 600 attendees - twice as many as had been predicted. Today it is the world's largest Amateur Radio gathering.

DARA now is counting down the days to the next Hamvention on 19 to 21 May 2017. Hamvention's new General Chairman is Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ, who succeeded Jim Tiderman, N8IDS. Tiderman reported an "overall good mood" and "a positive attitude" at this year's event and said the Hamvention staff received many upbeat comments. Hamvention's post-show Satisfaction Survey is soliciting comments and observations from those who attended this year's big show <http://hamvention.org/contact-us/surveys/>.

Scott Rought, KA8SMA, named CQ Magazine QRP Editor

CQ magazine today announced the appointment of R. Scott Rought, KA8SMA, as the magazine's new QRP (low power) Editor, effective with the August 2016 issue. Rought succeeds Dennis Lazar, W4DNN, who took the position on an interim basis a year ago.

A low-power devotee for more than 25 years, Rought has been an amateur since 1983 and holds an Extra Class license (along with his original call sign!). He has operated almost exclusively QRP, on both phone and CW, since 2000, and describes the antennas at his Traverse City, Michigan home as "a spider web of wire strung between trees" as well as a roof-mounted homebrew 2-element beam for 20 metres. He previously wrote about his "QRP Superstation" in the April 2012 issue of CQ.

Professionally, Rought is a project manager with an environmental consulting company in northern Michigan. He says, "I'm looking forward to providing a column that fellow hams will enjoy reading and that will entice QRO (high power) operators to give QRP a try." Rought's inaugural column in the August issue of CQ includes a "QRP guarantee" for high-power operators, including contesters, DXers and casual operators. The QRP column appears bi-monthly in CQ. The August issue of CQ should be in print subscribers' mailboxes by the end of July and available to digital subscribers as of 1 August.

Endurance Week 24 - 31 August

The 100th Anniversary of Sir Ernest Shackleton's Rescue of the Endurance Crew will be commemorated during 'Endurance Week' 24 to 31 August. In November 1915, Shackleton's ship 'Endurance' was crushed by ice, stranding the crew in the Antarctic. After a 557 km journey across the ice and by open boat, the crew landed on Elephant Island where they overwintered. Shackleton and a few others, however, continued by open boat 1 200 km to South Georgia. In a final push to get help, Shackleton and two men walked 52 km to Stromness to raise a rescue party. This took three months, but on 30 August 1916, every man of the Endurance crew was finally rescued.

July

1 – Start of SARL Membership year; Bloemfontein ARC 36th birthday

1 to 10 – Knysna Oyster Festival

3 - ZS5 Sprint

6 - Eid-UL-Fitr

8 to 10 – Dullstroom Winter Festival

9 and 10 - IARU HF Championships

10 - SARL Youth Net

14 to 17 – Coffee and Chocolate Expo, Monte Casino

16 - Winter QRP Sprint

16 and 17 – Franschhoek Bastille Festival

16 to 23 - Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp in Austria

18 - Schools open

24 - ZS2 Sprint

25 - Closing date for articles for the August Radio ZS

30 – Special General Meeting at the NARC

30 – SA Fly-fishing and Flytng Expo, Somerset West

30 and 31 - Islands on the Air Contest

This epic and remarkable feat will be commemorated during Endurance Week, which is an 'open door' event for anyone with connections with polar research and exploration. Fuller details on www.redkiteradio.org.uk

FT4JA QSL Status

Press Release as of 14 July, "Many of you are wondering about the QSL, especially when they read that some other stations get them already. What's going on exactly?" Read the whole press release at <http://www.juandenovadx.com/en/qsl-card-july-14th>

TX3X 2015 Chesterfield DXpedition (QSL/LoTW Status)

Final Press Release, dated 12 July 2016 [edited] "OQRS direct confirmation requests are processed weekly. Requests received by mail are processed immediately and queued for mailing in the next weekly cycle. At this time, there are no pending direct card requests. All busted call signs and Not in Log requests have been researched and answered. The complete log was uploaded to LoTW on 16 April 2016. OQRS Bureau requests and cards received via the bureau system were processed and bulk mailed from the United Kingdom to the worldwide QSL bureaus on 11 July 2016. We will continue to process OQRS, direct, Bureau requests and research busted call sign / Not in Log requests as they are received. If you requested a direct card via OQRS or mailed a direct request and have not received your card(s) please email k5qs@arrl.net with the details of your QSO(s)..... 73, TX3X Team

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Nigeria, 5N. Martin, LW9DTR, will be active as 5N/LW9DTR from Ilobu town, south of Osogbo, in the Osun State, between 7 and 8 August. Activity will be on 20, 15 and 10 metres using SSB and JT65. QSL via his home call sign direct.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Pantelleria Island, IH9. Emilio, IZ1GAR, will once again be active as IH9/IZ1GAR from Pantelleria Island (AF-019) between 24 and 28 November. In the CQ WW DX CW Contest (26 and 27 November), Emilio will be active as IH9R and as a Single-Op/Single Band (80 m)/ High-Power entry. Pantelleria counts as Multiplier Zone 33 Africa Italy for the CQ WW DX rule (islands are located over the African continent platform). QSL via IZ1GAR, direct or by the Bureau.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 18 to 25 July 2016

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 18 July
Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
<http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/autolog.php>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://grpcontest.com/pigrun/>

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 20 July
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC July 22, 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Content_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 20 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 21 July

Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and Member No; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 23 July 2016
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

NAQCC CW Sprint
00:30 - 02:30 UTC 21 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC July 24, 2016
Upload log at:
<http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at:
<http://naqcc.info/sprint201607.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 21 July
Mode: RTTY, PSK
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and Serial No

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 July 2016
Upload log at: <http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml>

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 22 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 23 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 22 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 July
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 July
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 July

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 July
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

SA Sprint Contest
21:00 - 23:00 UTC 23 July
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed; Novice; YL; Multi-Op
Max power: 100 W
Exchange: RS(T) and Serial No
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each SA prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 29 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: <http://sa-sprint.com/enviar-log/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://sa-sprint.com/rules/>

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 July
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 July
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 July
Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 30 July
RSGB IOTA Contest, 12:00 UTC 30 July to 12:00 UTC 31 July
ARS Flight of the Bumblebees, 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 1 August

Earthing and the Radio Amateur

The RSGB EMC committee have made available a new leaflet about earthing.

The leaflet discusses the background to the safety issues involved in connecting a Radio Frequency (RF) earth to an amateur radio installation and directs the reader to the appropriate sections of the current IET Wiring Regulations (BS7671) 17th Edition [See Ref 1 in endnotes for the full title].

Read Earthing and the Radio Amateur at <http://rsgb.org/main/files/2012/11/EMC07-v3-Earthing-and-the-Radio-Amateur-Basic.pdf>

Other EMC leaflets can be found at <http://rsgb.org/main/technical/emc/emc-publications-and-leaflets/>

VHF Happenings

First UK contact in 122 GHz band

The first UK contact in the 122 GHz band took place Sunday 17 July at 13:45 UTC between Roger Ray, G8CUB/P, and Chris Whitmarsh, G0FDZ/P, both stations located at Hackpen, Wiltshire (IO91CL)

In the UK Microwave Group Yahoo Group, Chris, G0FDZ writes,

"The distance was 120 m and the CW reports were 599 both ways. An earlier attempt at 5 km failed for a two way QSO. As well as signals on 134 GHz, of which only a very weak one-way QSO was possible on that band, only the merest hint of a signal on 122 GHz was heard. The 122 GHz band is noted for its high signal attenuation due additionally to atmospheric oxygen as well as water vapour attenuation.

The weather during the contest gave high humidity, and absorption of all millimetre wave frequencies was considered by many to be high. Although signals over the short distance were very good an attempt will be made soon over 1,5 km. Power levels were 70 uW for Chris, G0FDZ, and 300 uW for Roger, G8CUB. One feature of G0FDZ's system was the use of a slab type mixer, which has been recently developed to make millimetre wave mixers easier to construct.

With a QSO being achieved on this band it means that every allocated UK band has now had at least one contact."

A full report on the QSO and progress will appear in the UK Microwave Groups Scatterpoint newsletter and photos and video will be available soon. Issues of Scatterpoint before 2015 are available for free download, see <http://scatterpoint.org/>

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter